

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A tool, comprising:

 a holder, having:

 a receiving area for accepting a fastener in an insertion

direction; and

 a first notch transverse to said insertion direction, said notch in a
sidewall of said holder and in communication with said receiving area; and

 a retainer extending through said first notch and into said receiving area;

 wherein said retainer deflects away from said receiving area during insertion of
said fastener and provides a bias force to said fastener to retain the fastener ~~within~~
against said holder.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The tool of claim 1, wherein said holder has a
second notch through which said retainer extends, said second notch not being in
communication with said receiving area.

Claim 3 (Original): The tool of claim 2, wherein said second notch is opposite said
first notch.

Claim 4 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer comprises a split ring.

Claim 5 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer is a spring.

Claim 6 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said receiving area has a depth and said first notch resides approximately at a midpoint of said depth.

Claim 7 (Original): The tool of claim 1, wherein said holder has an end that accepts said fastener and said retainer does not reside at said end.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A socket assembly, comprising

a socket, having:

a receiving area for accepting a fastener in an insertion direction;

and

a first notch in a sidewall transverse to said insertion direction, said

first notch in communication with said receiving area; and

a retainer extending in said notch and through into said receiving area;

wherein said retainer deflects away from said receiving area during insertion of

said fastener and provides a bias force to said fastener to retain said fastener

~~within~~ against said holder.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said holder has a second notch through which said retainer extends, said second notch not being in communication with said receiving area.

Claim 10 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 9, wherein said second notch is opposite said first notch.

Claim 11 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said retainer comprises a split ring.

Claim 12 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said retainer is a spring.

Claim 13 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said receiving area has a depth and said notch resides approximately at a midpoint of said depth.

Claim 14 (Original): The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said holder has an end that accepts said fastener and said retainer does not reside at said end.

Claim 15 (Original): A retainer secured to a holder for preventing a fastener from departing said holder, comprising:

an arcuate medial section; and

a pair of arms extending from said medial section, each of said arms having a bent tip;

wherein said medial section and said tips conform to the shape of said holder.

Claim 16 (Original) The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is generally planar.

Claim 17 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said arms are generally linear.

Claim 18 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is a split ring.

Claim 19 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is a spring.

Claim 20 (Original): The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer comprises wire.